

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 05274 01 OF 02 111756Z

46

ACTION DLOS-07

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RSC-01 L-03 COA-02 OIC-04 CG-00 DOTE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

CU-04 PRS-01 PA-04 USIE-00 DODE-00 DRC-01 /068 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4154

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CARACAS 5274

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TAGS: PBOR VE

SUBJ: LOS: BIOGRAPHIC DATA CONCERNING THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION
TO THE THIRD UN CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

REF: CARACAS 5062; STATE 67788

BEGIN SUMMARY. VENEZUELA'S 87-STRONG DELEGATION TO THE FORTHCOMING LOS CONFERENCE IS BROADLY REPRESENTATIVE AND CONTAINS VIRTUALLY THIS COUNTRY'S ENTIRE EXPERTISE ON LOS MATTERS. THE KEY VENEZUELAN DELEGATE WILL PROBABLY BE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MANUEL PEREZ GUERRERO, ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT. HE WILL LOOK PRIMARILY TO SUCH COLLEAGUES AS DRS. AGUILAR, SCHACHT AND BURELLI FOR TECHNICAL ADVICE, BUT FINAL DECISIONS WILL MOST LIKELY BE TAKEN BY HIM, SUBJECT TO THE FINAL CONCURRENCE OF PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ. END SUMMARY.

1. AS REPORTED IN CARACAS 5062, VENEZUELA HAS NAMED 32 DELEGATES (REPRESENTANTES) TO THE CARACAS LOS CONFERENCE, 32 ALTERNATE DELEGATES (SUPLENTE), 19 ADVISERS (CONSEJEROS) AND 4 SECRETARIES. THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION WAS SELECTED (REPORTEDLY AFTER CONSIDERABLE WRANGLING) TO INCLUDE NOT ONLY ALL OF VENEZUELA'S LOS EXPERTS, WHETHER OR NOT HOLDING GOVERNMENT OFFICE, BUT ALSO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE AND JUDICIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 05274 01 OF 02 111756Z

BRANCHES OF THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF

THE ARMED FORCES, THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY (INCLUDING SPECIALLY THE PETROLEUM SECTOR), AND THE INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY.

2. OF THE 32 VENEZUELAN DELEGATES, THE EMBASSY CONSIDERS THE MOST IMPORTANT TO BE:

FOREIGN MINISTER EFRAIN SCHACHT (SEE EMBASSY'S BIOGRAPHIC REPORT OF MARCH 26, 1974). ALTHOUGH THE TITULAR HEAD OF THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION, SCHACHT IS NOT A STRONG AND INDEPENDENT FOREIGN MINISTER AND, THOUGH ACTIVE IN THE EXECUTION OF VENEZUELAN FOREIGN POLICY, WILL PROBABLY DEFER TO DRS. PEREZ GUERRERO AND AGUILAR (SEE BELOW).

DR MANUEL PEREZ GUERRERO (SEE DEPARTMENT'S BIOGRAPHIC DATA SHEET OF APRIL 1972). MINISTER OF STATE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS SINCE MARCH 1974, DR PEREZ GUERRERO, A BRILLIANT ECONOMIST, IS ONE OF THE THREE OR FOUR MOST INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT. NOW 62 YEARS OLD, HE HAS SERVED AS DIRECTOR OF THE VENEZUELAN COMMISSION OF COORDINATION AND PLANNING--CORDIPLAN (1959-63), MINISTER OF MINES AND HYDROCARBONS (1963-67), AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF UNCTAD (1966-1974). HE IS OCCASIONALLY CRITICAL OF THE US. SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH AND FRENCH.

DR ANDRES AGUILAR (SEE DEPARTMENT'S BIOGRAPHIC DATA SHEET OF MARCH 4, 1974). AGUILAR, VENEZUELA'S LEADING EXPERT ON LOS MATTERS, IS ABOUT TO RETIRE AS VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO THE US. AS A SYMPATHIZER WITH THE OPPOSITION COPEI PARTY, AGUILAR'S VIEWS ARE NO LONGER PARAMOUNT IN DETERMINING VENEZUELA'S POSITION ON LOS MATTERS.

DR. MARCOS FALCON BRICENO (SEE EMBASSY'S BIOGRAPHIC REPORTS OF JANUARY 23 AND JANUARY 29, 1963). FALCON, VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO THE US (1958-60), FOREIGN MINISTER (1960-64), AND AMBASSADOR TO THE UK (1964-65), WAS AN UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAS IN 1968. FALCON IS CURRENTLY AN INDEPENDENT DEPUTY (ELECTED ON THE AD TICKET), AND AN INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. HE IS ALSO A CANDIDATE TO SUCCEED GALO PLAZA AS OAS SEC GEN. VERY PRO-US, HE SPEAKS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CARACA 05274 01 OF 02 111756Z

GOOD ENGLISH.

DR. MIGUEL ANGEL BURELLI RIVAS, AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO THE US AND PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANIZING COMMISSION FOR THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF THE LAW OF THE SEA. BORN JULY 8, 1922, HE HAS BA IN ECONOMICS AND A DOCTORATE IN LAW FROM THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF VENEZUELA. A SOMETIME CAREER DIPLOMAT, HE WAS FIRST SECRETARY AT THE UN (1949-50) AND COUNSELOR IN

WASHINGTON (1950-51). ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
X INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE (1954). DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL
AFFAIRS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE ANDES AT MERIDA (1952-53).
EXILED FROM VENEZUELA (1955-58). DIRECTOR OF THE POLITICAL
BUREAU OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR (1958-59). DIRECTOR
GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY (1959-61). DEAN OF HUMANITIES
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE ANDES (1961-63). MINISTER OF JUSTICE
(1963-64). AMBASSADOR TO COLOMBIA (1965-66 AND THE THE UK
(1967-68). UNSUCCESSFUL INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE FOR THE
PRESIDENCY OF VENEZUELA IN 1968 (THIRD PLACE WITH 22 PERCENT
OF THE VOTE) AND IN 1973 (SIXTH PLACE WITH LESS THAN 1 PERCENT).
BURELLI IS HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, ARTICULATE AND HANDSOME, AND HAS AN
ENGAGING PERSONALITY. VERY WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE US. WAS AN
INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANTEE TO THE US IN 1970. SPEAKS GOOD
ENGLISH.

CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 05274 02 OF 02 111805Z

46

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CARACAS 5274

SENATOR ENRIQUE TEJERA PARIS (SEE DEPARTMENT'S BIOGRAPHIC
DATA SHEET OF JANUARY 1965). AMBASSADOR TO THE US (1963-68).
ELECTED AN AD SENATOR FROM THE FEDERAL DISTRICT IN 1969, PRESENTLY
SERVING IN THE SENATE AS AN AD ALTERNATE. INFLUENTIAL IN THE VENE-
ZUELAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY. WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE US. SPEAKS
FLUENT ENGLISH, FRENCH AND ITALIAN.

DEPUTY ARTURO HERNANDEZ GRISANTI. BORN AUGUST 4, 1927,
HERNANDEZ GRADUATED FROM THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF VENEZUELA IN
1951 WITH A DEGREE IN LAW AND A DOCTORATE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE. HE

IS AN AD DEPUTY FROM SUCRE STATE AND THE RULING AD PARTY'S PARLIAMENTARY LEADER ON PETROLEUM MATTERS. A FORMER INTERIM MINISTER OF MINES AND HYDROCARBONS. AMBITIOUS AND EGOTISTICAL, HERNANDEZ IS OFTEN HARSHLY CRITICAL OF US OIL POLICIES AND OF US OIL COMPANIES. HE IS, HOWEVER, A SERIOUS STUDENT OF AMERICAN HISTORY AND INVARIABLY FRIENDLY WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS. UNDERSTANDS ENGLISH BUT HIS SPEAKING ABILITY IS LIMITED.

REAR ADMIRAL ARMANDO PEREZ LEEFMANS (SEE DIA BIOGRAPHIC DATA SHEET OF JUNE 1973). COMMANDING GENERAL (EQUIVALENT TO CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS) OF THE VENEZUELAN NAVY SINCE FEBRUARY 1973. BORN JANUARY 11, 1922. THE SENIOR SUBMARINER IN THE VENEZUELAN NAVY. APPARENTLY THE MOST IMPORTANT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE VENEZUELAN ARMED FORCES ON THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION. ATTENDED US NAVAL WAR COLLEGE AT NEWPORT, RI
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PAGE 02 CARACA 05274 02 OF 02 111805Z

(1964-65). FRIENDLY TOWARD THE US. SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH.

REAR ADMIRAL MANUEL DIAZ UGUETO (SEE USDAO CARACAS BIOGRAPHIC REPORT NO. 6 902 0055 74 OF APRIL 4, 1974). CHIEF OF THE SUB-COMMISSION FOR THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE CARACAS LOS CONFERENCE. BORN JUNE 6, 1928. IN 1972 WAS NAVAL ADVISOR TO THE VENEZUELAN NEGOTIATING TEAM CONCERNED WITH THE COLOMBIAN/VENEZUELAN BOUNDARY DISPUTE. CHIEF OF THE PRESIDENT'S MILITARY HOUSEHOLD (1973-74). IN CHARGE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LOS CONFERENCE AND AS SUCH A KEY FIGURE ON THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION. INTELLIGENT, PRO-US. SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH.

DR. EMILIO FIGUEREDO. DIRECTOR OF SUBSTANTIVE COORDINATION FOR THE ORGANIZING COMMISSION FOR THE LOS CONFERENCE, I.E., IN CHARGE OF VENEZUELA'S SUBSTANTIVE PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE IMMEDIATELY UNDER DR. BURELLI. TECHNICALLY THE MOST QUALIFIED OF THE YOUNGER VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS CONNECTED WITH LOS MATTERS AND WELL-KNOWN TO US LOS TEAM IN THE DEPARTMENT. IS THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF DR. REINALDO FIGUEREDO, PRESIDENT OF THE VENEZUELAN INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN COMMERCE AND ALSO A VENEZUELAN DELEGATE TO THE CONFERENCE. SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH.

3. PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT MEMBER OF THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION IS DR. MANUEL PEREZ GUERRERO, WHO IS BELIEVED TO POSSESS THE CONFIDENCE OF PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AND HAS READY ACCESS TO HIM. BECAUSE OF THE SIZE AND REPRESENTATIVE NATURE OF THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION, WHICH CONTAINS CONSIDERABLE EXPERTISE ON LOS MATTERS, IT WILL PROBABLY POSSESS CONSIDERABLE INDEPENDENCE IN FORMULATING VENEZUELAN POLICY AS THE CONFERENCE UNFOLDS. MUCH STUDY AND HARD WORK HAVE GONE INTO VENEZUELA'S PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE, AND THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION'S KEY FIGURES LISTED ABOVE WILL PROBABLY COME TO THE CONFERENCE

WITH THEIR MINDS MADE UP ON MOST MAJOR ISSUES. PEREZ GUERRERO WILL LISTEN TO HIS RESPECTED COLLEAGUES SUCH AS AGUILAR, SCHACHT, AND BURELLI (IN THAT ORDER), BUT HIS JUDGMENT (SUBJECT TO THE FINAL CONCURRENCE OF PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ) WILL VERY LIKELY PROVE DECISIVE SO FAR AS VENEZUELA IS CONCERNED.

4. BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE US DELEGATION FROM
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PAGE 03 CARACA 05274 02 OF 02 111805Z

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